Chapter 125: Family
YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THE LIST.
MIS-TRESS FRIEREN.
BOOM
TAP
WSH
137
PLEASE DON'T MOVE.
I DIDN'T SENSE YOUR MANA.
WHO ARE YOU?
UP CLOSE LIKE THIS, I CAN CUT HER THROAT IN AN INSTANT.
SEEMS LIKE IT.
YOU'RE A SHADOW WARRIOR.
I'M SURPRISED. I DIDN'T THINK THEY ACTUALLY EXISTED.
JUST A SHADOW. ONE OF MANY.
I NEVER HAD A NAME TO BEGIN WITH.
I'VE HEARD RUMORS OF A SECRET ORDER OF WARRIORS WHO SPECIALIZE IN CONCEALING THEIR MANA.
THEY WERE FORMED DURING THE TIME OF THE UNIFIED EMPIRE, SPECIFICALLY TO COUNTERACT MAGES.
BUT YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE I'VE EVER MET.
NO...
YOU FEAR DEATH.
STEP AWAY FROM HER.
I'M READY TO TAKE HER DOWN WITH ME.
KRASH
KLAANG
GRAB
BOOM
I MIS-JUDGED YOUR SKILLS.
YOUR TEAMWORK IS IMPRESSIVE. MAKES ME MISS THE OLD DAYS.
IT REMINDS ME OF HOW I ONCE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE MY COMRADES AS WELL.
I REALLY HAVE GOTTEN OLD.
TELL ME WHY YOU'RE AFTER ME.
I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA.
TRUST ME, I WISH I KNEW.
IT'S CLOSE TO THE MAIN MOUNTAIN PASS...
...AND IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR PEOPLE TO MOVE THERE TO EARN A LIVING.
AS PLANNED, WE'LL PRETEND TO BE A FAMILY IN ORDER TO INFILTRATE THE VILLAGE.
NO. NOT A PROBLEM...
... ELEVEN.
I FEEL UNCOMFORT-ABLE IN THIS OUTFIT.
THEY'RE NOT SO BAD. THEY'RE EASY TO MOVE AROUND IN.
NO OBJEC-TIONS, RIGHT?
AND YOU-YOU'RE THE YOUNGEST CHILD IN THE FAMILY...
YOU'RE "RADAAL."
CALL ME "FATHER."
YOUR ABILITIES AS A WARRIOR ARE HIGHLY ESTEEMED. I KNOW YOU HAVE NO FEAR OF DEATH.
I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU.
WE KEEP OUR BLADES SHEATHED...
...UNLESS WE HAVE TO CARRY OUT OUR MISSION.
SORRY, FATHER.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
VERY WELL.
IT FEELS STRANGE.
EATING TOGETHER LIKE A FAMILY.
HOW COME?
I BET IT'S BEEN THE SAME FOR ALL OF YOU.
EVER SINCE THEY TOOK ME FROM THE ORPHANAGE, THE ONLY THING I'VE EVER LEARNED ABOUT LIFE IS HOW TO FIGHT.
WE'RE JUST HAVING A SIMPLE MEAL, SAME AS ALWAYS.
EAT IN SILENCE.
IF YOU SO DESPERATELY FEEL THE NEED TO HAVE A CONVERSATION...
...AT LEAST KEEP IT TO A TOPIC OF NO IMPORTANCE.
SO DEDICATED, "FATHER"...
IN THAT CASE...
...I'LL TALK ABOUT THE FISH THAT I CAUGHT TODAY.
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT BIG.
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS.
WHILE WE PRETENDED TO BE A NORMAL FAMILY...
...WE TOOK CARE OF THE TARGETS ON THE LIST, ONE BY ONE.
...AND OUR DAYS IN THE VILLAGE PASSED PEACEFULLY.
BUT THAT ONLY HAPPENED RARELY...
I SEE...
DO AS YOU WISH.
MY BROTHER?
AND YOU APPROVE?
SOME-THING WRONG, FATHER?
HE SAID HE WANTS TO GET MARRIED...
...TO THE GIRL FROM THE GENERAL STORE ACROSS THE STREET.
IT HELPS US BLEND IN HERE EVEN BETTER.
IT'S GOOD FOR US.
I HAVE A FEELING SHE'S INTO YOU.
OH, GIMME A BREAK...
HE'S ALREADY RUNNING AROUND.
TIME FLIES, DOESN'T IT?
HONESTLY, THAT'S THE ONE THING I DIDN'T WANT TO PASS DOWN TO HIM.
HE'S GOT FRIZZY HAIR LIKE ME.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN TEN YEARS, AND THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF NAMES LEFT ON THE LIST.
YOU DIDN'T THINK WE'D END UP STAYING HERE FOR SO LONG, DID YOU?
DO YOU INTEND TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE HERE?
SAY...
WE DON'T HAVE A HOME TO GO BACK TO ANYWAY.
IT'S NOT SO BAD. I DON'T MIND LIVING LIKE THIS.
RADAAL.
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, FATHER.
THAT BEARD DOESN'T SUIT YOU.
I HEARD THEY'RE GOING TO BUILD A NEW MAIN ROAD NEARBY.
PEOPLE WILL STOP USING THIS MOUNTAIN PASS.
MY WIFE SAYS I LOOK SUAVE.
IS THAT SO?
IT'S BEEN OVER 30 YEARS SINCE WE HEARD ANYTHING.
IF THEY HAVEN'T FOR-GOTTEN ABOUT US COM-PLETELY.
MAYBE YOU'RE HOPING THEY'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT US...
I'M SURE WE'LL BE NOTIFIED ABOUT THE MISSION ENDING SOON.
...
TIME TO GIVE UP THAT TITLE OF YOURS.
I'LL TAKE IT OVER FROM YOU...
THE WARRIOR WHO HAS NO FEAR OF DEATH HAS FINALLY GONE SOFT.
...YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A COLDHEARTED WARRIOR, SOLEY DEVOTED TO THE MISSION.
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL...
...IF YOU DON'T WANT IT.
I STILL AM.
FATHER.
WAS I REALLY...
...SMILING JUST NOW?
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THE TYPE...
...TO CRACK A JOKE OR SMILE LIKE THAT.
PERHAPS THIS TEDIOUS FAKE-FAMILY ACT WASN'T HALF BAD AFTER ALL.
ALL MY FRIENDS ARE DEAD.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY...
THE ONLY THING THAT REMAINS IS THE MISSION.
I AM A SHADOW WARRIOR.
WE NEVER KNEW FOR WHAT PURPOSE WE WERE CREATED OR WHO OUR ORDERS CAME FROM.
IT WAS A PEACEFUL DEATH.
THREE YEARS AGO, I LOST MY LAST FRIEND...
MY BROTHER.
THAT'S THE SORT OF THING REAL BROTHERS SAY TO EACH OTHER.
THE OTHERS WERE LIKE THAT, TOO.
CAN YOU GUESS WHAT HIS LAST WORDS WERE?
HE TOLD ME HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE MY FACE BEFORE HE DIED.
WE'RE TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER FOR NO REASON.
NO ONE REMEMBERS YOUR MISSION ANYMORE.
I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S IRONY OR JUST CHANCE...
...BUT YOUR NAME IS THE LAST ONE ON THE LIST.
THIS IS OVER.
I WOULDN'T KNOW.
YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGURE THAT OUT YOURSELF.
I WONDER WHAT THE MEANING OF MY LIFE WAS.
THE JOKE'S ON ME. "THE WARRIOR WHO HAS NO FEAR OF DEATH."
BUT HERE I AM, RELIEVED THAT I GET TO GO HOME.
WELL...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU WON'T DO IT TODAY?
YOU KNEW?
IT SURE IS.
THE SAME NICE WEATHER AS ALWAYS.
WHAT NICE WEATHER.
I DIDN'T THINK THE ROADS WOULD BE EVEN WORSE THAN THE LAST TIME...
THIS ISN'T A PATH MADE FOR PEOPLE.
THE WEATHER IS SO GOOD THOUGH...

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